

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 30 in accordance with the following listing of claims:

Cancel Claims 1-28

29. (Previously Added). A Method for performing charging in a telecommunications system, comprising:

storing at a subscriber information store subscription information including charging arrangement information indicative of the charging arrangement for a first communication terminal operating in the telecommunications system;

providing by means of packet data interface apparatus packet data communication services to the first terminal, the packet data interface apparatus being capable of interfacing between the first communication terminal and a packet-switched data link to another communications terminal;

generating by means of the packet data interface apparatus charging messages indicative of the usage of the packet data communication services by the first terminal;

transferring the charging messages to charging apparatus;

the method further including the steps of:

transferring the charging arrangement information to the packet data interface apparatus; and

storing at the packet data interface apparatus the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal; and

wherein the step of generating charging messages comprises generating the said charging messages dependent on the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal.

30. (Currently amended). A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein:

the step of generating the charging messages comprises:

determining on the basis of the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal stored at the packet data interface apparatus whether a communication with the first terminal is liable to charging; and

generating a charging message for the communication if the communication is liable to charging; and

a charging operation to attribute to a subscriber for the first communications terminal a charge for use of the communication services by the first terminal is performed by means of the charging apparatus.

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31. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein it is determined that a communication is not liable for charging if charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal stored at the packet data interface apparatus indicates that the communication is subject to flat rate payment.

32. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein it is determined that a communication is not liable for charging if charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal stored at the packet data interface apparatus indicates that the communication is subject to pre-payment.

33. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein it is determined that a communication is not liable for charging if charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal stored at the packet data interface apparatus indicates that the communication is free of charge.

34. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 30 wherein it is determined that a communication is not liable for charging if a session itself indicates that the communication is free of charge.

35. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the charging message is indicative of the duration and/or type of the communication.

36. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the charging message is indicative of an amount of data transferred in the communication.

37. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the charging message is indicative of the identity of the first communication terminal.

38. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the charging message is a CDR ticket.

39. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the step of transferring the charging arrangement information to the packet data interface apparatus is performed during attachment of the first communication terminal to the telecommunications system.

40. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the subscriber information store is a home location register.

41. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 40 wherein the home location register stores information indicative of access point names available to the first terminal, and the method includes the step of accessing that information.

42. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the packet data interface apparatus is capable of interfacing between a packet radio connection with the first communication terminal and a packet-switched data link to the other communications terminal.

43. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 42, wherein the packet radio connection is a general packet radio service (GPRS) connection.

44. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the packet data interface apparatus comprises a serving GPRS support node (SGSN).

45. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 44, wherein the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal is stored at the SGSN.

46. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the packet data interface apparatus comprises a global GPRS support node (GGSN).

47. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal is stored at the GGSN.

48. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 46 wherein the step of transferring the charging arrangement information to the packet data interface apparatus comprises transferring the charging arrangement information to the SGSN.

49. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 48, comprising the step of transferring the charging arrangement information from the SGSN to the GGSN.

50. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 49 wherein the said step of transferring the charging arrangement information from the SGSN to the GGSN is performed if it is determined that the communication is subject to hot billing.

51. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 46 wherein the step of determining whether a communication with the first terminal is liable to charging is performed by means of the SGSN and the GGSN.

52. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 51 wherein the said step of generation of the charging messages is performed by means of the GGSN and SGSN.

53. (Previously Added). A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein the telecommunications system is a universal mobile telecommunications system (UMTS).

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54. (Previously Added). A telecommunications system, comprising:
a subscriber information store storing subscription information including charging arrangement information indicative of the charging arrangement for a first communication terminal operating in the telecommunication system;
packet data interface apparatus for providing packet data communication services to the first terminal, the packet data interface apparatus being capable of interfacing between the first communication terminal and a packet-switched data link to another communications terminal, and generating charging messages indicative of the usage of the packet data communication services by the first terminal;
message transfer apparatus for transferring the charging messages to charging apparatus;
and wherein the packet data interface apparatus is adapted to receive and store the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal and to generate the said charging messages dependant on the charging arrangement information for the first communication terminal.

55. (Previously Added). A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 54, wherein charging apparatus is capable of performing a charging operation to attribute to a subscriber for the first communications terminal a charge for use of the communication services by the first terminal.